The POLICY Committee of the Hattiesburg-Petal-Forrest-Lamar Metropolitan Planning Organization met in session April 25, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Hattiesburg Intermodal Facility in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

**POLICY Committee Members Present:**

Lamar Rutland, Director of Engineering, City of Hattiesburg, Voting
Mayor Hal Marx, City of Petal, Voting
Corey Proctor, Planning Director, Forrest County, Voting
Michael Hershman, County Planner, Lamar County, Voting
Nick Connolly, Shows, Dearman & Waits, Forrest County, Voting
Perry Brown, P.E., MDOT, MDOT, Voting
John Weeks, Engineer, Shows, Dearman & Waits, City of Petal, Voting
Ginger M. Lowrey, Planner, City of Hattiesburg, Voting
Andrew Ellard, Executive Director of HPFL-MPO, City of Hattiesburg, Voting
Jeff Altman, MDOT LPA Division, MDOT, Voting
Joseph Waits, Lamar County, Voting

**MPO/HCT Staff**

Calvin Russell, MPO Division Manager, City of Hattiesburg, Voting
Addie West, MPO Administrative Assistant, City of Hattiesburg, Voting
Stephanie Hall, Urban Development Admin. Assistant, City of Hattiesburg, Voting
Hema Gopalan, MPO GIS Specialist, City of Hattiesburg, Voting
Grant Hobgood, MPO GIS Technician, City of Hattiesburg, Voting

**Visitors**

Gloria Tatum, Tatum & Associates, Voting
Mike Essary, P.E., Neel-Schaffer, Voting
Vijay Kunada, Neel-Schaffer, Voting
Geoffrey Crosby, Neel-Schaffer, Voting
Kelly O’Neal, Farmer/Landowner, Voting
Diane O’Neal, COH Citizen, Voting
Called to Order/Introductions:
Hattiesburg-Petal-Forrest-Lamar MPO POLICY Committee Meeting was called to order by Mayor Hal Marx, of the City of Petal. Voting Delegates were identified.

AGENDA SESSION:
There came the matter of Item III, Approval of the HPFL-MPO POLICY Committee Meeting Agenda of April 25, 2018. A motion was made by Lamar Rutland and seconded by Michael Hershman to accept the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item IV, Review and Comment on the HPFL-MPO Policy & Technical meeting minutes for December 13, 2017. A motion was made by Michael Hershman and seconded by Lamar Rutland to approve the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item V, HPFL- MPO Safety Targets #1 Ballot Vote
The committee members were asked if they had any questions on the Vote to Adopt Safety Targets established by The Mississippi Highway Safety Improvement Program 2017 Annual Report rather than establishing targets unique to our MPO area. The committee members were harmonious in this decision. No voting action required.

There came the matter of Item VI, Prospectus/By-Laws
Andrew reviewed summary of edits proposed to Policy committee members. A motion was made by Lamar Rutland and seconded by Michael Hershman to Vote to Recommend Approval of the HPFL-MPO Prospectus/Bylaws with proposed edits. The motion was unanimously approved. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item VII, Public Participation Plan
The committee reviewed the draft of the PPP. The committee agreed that the Plan needed to be more general and the website changed so it could be more accessible to the MPO. It needs to be more consistent throughout in line with the Federal Highway requirements and mirrors what is reasonable and. Randy Jansen requested that all changes made should be sent to the Federal Highway within two weeks before Adoption. Updating the media contacts and the usage of the Website and Facebook was also discussed along with creating a short cut to the MPO. The consensus of the committee was that the LP will change entirely.
A motion was made by Michael Hershman and seconded by Lamar Rutland to Vote to Recommend to Acknowledging to Amend the HPFL-MPO Public Participation Plan with the committee suggested recommendations. The motion was unanimously approved. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item VIII, Western Beltway Phase II Feasibility Study Presentation
Presentation was given on the Western Beltway Phase II Feasibility Study by Shows, Dearman and Waits. They talked about the analysis of traffic accidents, safety benefits and maintenance. A Public Hearing was held to get the residents input and to answer their questions. Based on the results of the analyses, potential construction of the Western Beltway is expected to result in improved traffic operations with reduced delays and queue lengths. The recommended lane configuration and traffic control contained herein will provide acceptable traffic operations for the design year of 2040. This will benefit the traveling public. A motion was made by Michael Hershman and seconded by Corey Proctor to Vote to Recommend Acknowledging Receipt of the Western Beltway Feasibility Study. The motion was approved with John Weeks and Nick Connolly recusing themselves from the motion. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item IX, Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Handbook
The committee reviewed the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Handbook. Andrew Ellard opened the discussion of the changes and why they were suggested. The changes and clarification were made to correct related and repetitive wordings, duplications and minor typographical errors. A motion was made by Lamar Rutland and seconded by Michael Hershman to Vote to Approve the TIP Handbook. The motion was unanimously approved. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item X, Public Comment Opportunity
No Public Comment at this time. No voting action required.
There came the matter of Item XI, Other Business/Local Business
Andrew Ellard, Executive Director of HPFL-MPO stated that Hub City Transit will move forward with new bus routes. Also, they will be implementing New Fareboxes. In Planning, they will be updating the Land Development Codes. No voting action required.

There came the matter of Item XII, Meeting Adjournment. Next scheduled meeting is the Policy Committee meeting on July 25, 2018. Being there was no further business, a motion was made by Mayor Hal Marx to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Andrew Ellard, Executive Director of HPFL-MPO

Attest:

Addie West, Recording Secretary